

REMARKS**I. The Rejection of Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. 112**

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 . Claim 24 has been canceled.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this rejection is now moot. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

II. The Rejection of Claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as obvious over Maselli et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,857,339). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention discloses a process for accelerating starch retrogradation, thus allowing a shortening of the holding period using a maltogenic alpha-amylase (classified as EC 3.2.1.133) or a pullulanase (classified as EC 3.2.1.41)

As Applicants have previously noted, Maselli et al. disclose a process of preparing breakfast cereal using an alpha-amylase (classified as EC 3.2.1.1). Alpha-amylases, maltogenic alpha-amylases and pullulanases are different classes of enzymes, with different action patterns, and different end products. Maselli et al. do not teach or suggest use of a maltogenic alpha-amylase or a pullulanase, and the Examiner cites no references showing that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to substitute the alpha-amylase disclosed in Maselli et al. for the maltogenic alpha-amylase or pullulanase disclosed in the present invention. Absent such a teaching, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to substitute alpha-amylase with maltogenic alpha-amylase or pullulanase.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,



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